

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200725 TOSEC 090060
ORIGIN SS-25

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200725 TOSEC 090060

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ACTING SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: CRAWFORD CASE: DOBRYNIN RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL
HARVESTER

PLEASE DELIVER TO THE AMBASSADOR OPENING OF BUSINESS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

1. INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER GENERAL COUNSEL WILLIAM
CRAWFORD IN CALL ON ME AUGUST 8 PROVIDED FOLLOWING TEXT OF A
DOBRYNIN RESPONSE TO BROOKS MCCORMICK ON THE JAY CRAWFORD
CASE. RESPONSE WAS DELIVERED TO IH'S WASHINGTON OFFICE
AUGUST 4 BY SOVIET CHARGE VASEV, WHO STRESSED THE
EXCEPTIONAL NATURE OF THE OFFER IT CONTAINS.

2. IH ASKS FOR DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON REACTING TO THE
OFFER, AND WISHES TO RESPOND IF POSSIBLE BY THE END OF THE
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WEEK.

3. WILLIAM CRAWFORD OF IH WAS INCLINED TO REJECT THE SOVIET
OFFER AND HAD DRAFTED LETTER TO THAT EFFECT. I SUGGESTED
THAT IH DELAY RESPONSE UNTIL WE COULD FORMULATE OUR ADVICE.
ON BALANCE, WE THINK THEY AND WE MIGHT REGRET NOT FOLLOWING
UP ON THE OFFER IN SOME MANNER: OUR PERFORMANCE WOULD BE FOR

A RUSSIAN SPEAKING AMERICAN LAWYER WITH KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET

LAW TO MAKE THE APPROACH, PERHAPS WITH WILLIAM CRAWFORD'S
DEPUTY. WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.

BEGIN TEXT OF DOBRYNIN MESSAGE: CONTRARY TO THE ASSERTIONS
OF MR. CRAWFORD'S INNOCENCE CONTAINED IN THE LETTER WE
HAVE IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT HE IS GUILTY OF COMMITTING
A CRIME SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE 88 OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE.
HIS GUILT IS ALSO SUBSTANTIATED BY THE MATERIALS RECEIVED IN
THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATION: BY TESTIMONY OF SOVIET
CITIZENS ACCOMPLICES OF MR. CRAWFORD IN CURRENCY-SPECULATIVE
OPERATIONS (VLADIMIR KISELEV, LUDMILA KISELEVA AND ALLA
SOLOVIEVA), BY STATEMENTS OF EYE-WITNESSES AS WELL AS BY
MATERIAL EVIDENCE. THAT'S WHY WE CAN NOT DROP THE CHARGES
AGAINST MR. CRAWFORD AND RELEASE HIM FROM INVESTIGATION.
AT THE SAME TIME, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT MR. MCCORMICK'S
WISHES, MR. CRAWFORD, AS IS KNOWN, WAS RELEASED FROM
CUSTODY AND PROCEEDS WITH HIS SERVICE DUTIES, ALTHOUGH THE
THREE ABOVE-MENTIONED SOVIET CITIZENS - HIS ACCOMPLICES ARE
IN PRISON.

AS ONE MORE GESTURE OF GOOD WILL TOWARD MR. MCCORMICK
PERSONALLY AND INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER WHICH HAS A LONG-
TIME FRUITFUL EXPERIENCE OF COOPERATION WITH SOISET
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FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, MOSCOW WOULD BE READY TO
PERMIT MR. MCCORMICK OR HIS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES TO
FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE MATERIALS OF INVESTIGATION OF
THE CRAWFORD CASE, TO ATTEND HIS CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE
ACCOMPLICES AS WELL AS TO TALK TO THEM PRIOR TO THE
COMPLETION OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THE BRINGING THE CASE
BEFORE THE COURT.

WE MAKE SUCH A STEP AS AN EXCEPTION, OUT OF PERSONAL
RESPECT FOR MR. MCCORMICK AND THIS EXCEPTION CAN BE MADE
ONLY FOR HIM PERSONALLY OR FOR A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER AUTHORIZED BY HIM.

THE SOVIET SIDE DOES NOT LINK A PARTICULAR CASE OF THE
OFFENCE COMMITTED BY MR. CRAWFORD WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER OR OTHER US FIRMS MAINTAINING
BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IN THIS
CONNECTION MOSCOW IS PUZZLED BY MR. MCCORMICK'S ATTEMPTS TO
TRY TO PERSUADE OTHER US FIRMS TO CURTAIL TRADE OPERATIONS
WITH THE USSR BECAUSE OF MISBEHAVIOR OF MR. CRAWFORD.

WE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO MR. MCCORMICK INFORMING BUSINESS

CIRCLES AND THE PRESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS CONVERSATION
INCLUDING OF OUR READINESS TO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO
CONVINCE HIMSELF OF THE VALIDITY OF CHARGES AGAINST

MR. CRAWFORD. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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